

Message Text

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TAGS:MORG, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:CRISIS ASSESSMENT IN NATO

REFS: (A) USNATO 4390, DTG 291124Z APR 78
(B) USNATO 6295, DTG 221705Z JUNE 78

1. WE HAVE TWO BASIC CONCERNS IN DEALING WITH THE
QUESTION OF CRISIS ASSESSMENT IN NATO.

2. THE FIRST IS THAT PROCEDURES ADOPTED BE SUFFICIENTLY
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FLEXIBLE TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE CONSULTATION AT THE NAC/DPC
LEVEL ON NATIONAL ACTIONS (THIS IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE
DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF A DEVELOPING CRISIS) AS WELL AS
TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING ON NATO ACTIONS (THIS
IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE DURING LATTER STAGES OF A
DEVELOPING CRISIS, WHEN NAC/DPC MIGHT HAVE TO DEAL
WITH SUCH QUESTIONS AS POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT

OF FORCES UNDER NATO COMMAND).

3. THE SECOND IS THAT PROCEDURES BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PERMIT NAC/DPC TO TAKE UP, WITHOUT ANY INTERMEDIARY STEP, AN ASSESSMENT BY US OR ANOTHER ALLY, WHEN AND AS APPROPRIATE. FYI. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS OCCURS INFREQUENTLY IN EXERCISES,

BUT WE EXPECT THAT US, AND POSSIBLY UK AND FRANCE, WOULD SUBMIT COMPLETE ASSESSMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN NAC/DPC IN THE REAL EVENT. END FYI. WE THINK THAT IN TIME OF A FAST-MOVING CRISIS A US ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION MADE AVAILABLE TO NATO SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE PROCESSING.

4. THESE CONCERNS WOULD LEAD US TO A JUDGMENT THAT IN VERY EARLY STAGES, THE NAC/DPC WOULD RECEIVE AND DISCUSS NATIONAL VIEWS DIRECTLY, WITHOUT SUBORDINATE COMMITTEE PROCESSING; THAT AS THE SITUATION EVOLVES, THE NAC/DPC WOULD REQUEST ASSESSMENTS (WHICH WE TAKE AS ESTIMATES OF THE SITUATION) FROM ITS SENIOR COMMITTEES (MILITARY, POLITICAL, SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY) AS APPROPRIATE; AND THAT AS THE SITUATION BECAME TENSE OR AROSE RAPIDLY, THE NAC/DPC WOULD DEAL DIRECTLY WITH NATIONAL VIEWS, INVITING THE APPROPRIATE SENIOR COMMITTEES TO PREPARE DRAFT IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS FOR NATO ACTIONS; AT THIS
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FINAL STAGE CMC AND SENIOR IS OFFICIALS WOULD BE PRESENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE ANY NEEDED NATO DATA (OR VIEWS, AS IN CASE OF CMC). OF COURSE, ROLE OF CMC IN PRESENTING NMA VIEWS WOULD INCREASE WITH NATO INVOLVEMENT.

5. WITH ALL OF ABOVE IN MIND WE WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO ENDORSE THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE OR BRIEFING GROUP SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE LUNS PO AS ONE WHICH DOES NOT SOLIDIFY THE TENDENCY TO PROCESS EVERYTHING THROUGH A SUBORDINATE COMMITTEE BUT LEAVES NAC/DPC FREE TO CALL ON ITS SUPPORTING COMMITTEES AS APPROPRIATE. IF, HOWEVER, A STRONG CONSENSUS EMERGES FOR THE SECOND OR "REINFORCING" OPTION YOU MAY ACCEPT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, PERHAPS SUGGESTING IT BE CONSIDERED ON A TRIAL BASIS DURING THE EXT EXERCISE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE.

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